

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 04232 031127Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 EB-08 ISO-00 /029 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 4232

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, CE

SUBJ: TRADE OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM--SRI LANKA AIR FORCE CON-
SIDERING THREE EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS FOR HELICOPTERS

REF: 76 COLOMBO 4698

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: REFTEL REPORTED AIR FORCE TENDER
FOR TWO TWIN ENGINED HELICOPTERS.
2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AIR FORCE COMMANDER, AIR VICE-
MARSHAL HARRY GOONETILLEKE, WILL LEAD A TEAM OF TECHNICIANS TO
CHECK ON THE SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE OF FOUR EUROPEWX
MADE HELICOPTERS WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR PUCHASE BY
THE AIR FORCE TENDER BOARD. THE HELICOPTERS IN QUESTION ARE:
AUGUSTA 109 (ITALIAN), DAUPHINE 365 (FRENCH), AND THE BAKOF
105 AND 106 (GERMAN). END UNCLASSIFIED.
3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
BELL HELICOPTER BELIEVES THE FRENCH AVE THE INSIDE TRACK
BECAUSE OF A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LINE OF CREDIT THEY ARE
OFFERING. THE BELL REP DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THE TERMS
BUT FELT THAT IF THE USG ALSO OFFERED A CREDIT LINE BELL WOULD
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HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF MAKING THE SALE. EMBOFF EXPLAINED
THAT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL) WISHES TO USE
THESE HELICOPTERS FOR BOTH MILITARY AND COMMERICAL PURPOSES,
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO CONSIDER EITHER EXIMBANK
OR MILITARY SALES ASSISTANCE. THE BELL REP SAID HE WOULD TRY
TO GET MORE DETAILS ON THE FRENCH CREDIT OFFER AND WOULD KEEP
THE EMBASSY INFORMED. HE POINTEDOUT THAT THE AIR FORCE IS

ALREADY OPERATING BELL JET RANGERS WITH VERY GOOD RESULTS,
AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR THE GSL TO BUY AN UNPROVED FRENCH
HELICOPTER.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE OPPORTUNITY REPORTS, AIR FORCE, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COLOMB04232
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0921
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711101/aaaadiso.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: TRADE OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM--SRI LANKA AIR FORCE CON- sidering three European suppliers for helicopters
TAGS: ETRD, CE
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